

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

MBFR-03 SAJ-01 RSR-01 /095 W
----- 046348

R 091040 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6746

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USEC BRUSSELS 679

USMISSION NATO

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, NO

SUBJ: NORWAY' S MINI- COALITION GOVERNMENT SURVIVES CONFIDENCE

VOTE

REF: OSLO 2112

1. LABOR' S MOTION OF NO- CONFIDENCE WAS DEFEATED LATE LAST NIGHT (JUNE 8) BY A VOTE OF 77-73. PRIME MINISTER LARS KORVALD AND HIS NARROWLY- BASED COALITION GOVERNMENT WILL THUS REMAIN IN POWER UNTIL AFTER PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN SEPTEMBER.

2. THE CONFIDENCE MOTION WAS OFFERED BY LABOR PARTY CHAIRMAN TRYGVE BRATTELI LATE IN THE AFTERNOON, AFTER SEVERAL HOURS' DEBATE ON THE GOVERNMENT' S HANDLING OF THE SO- CALLED CROTALE AFFAIR. SPOKESMEN FOR THE OTHER OPPOSITION PARTIES-- THE CONSERVATIVES AND THE NEW PEOPLE' S PARTY- - MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY TOO WERE CRITICAL OF THE GOVERNMENT' S CONDUCT-- BUT NOT CRITICAL ENOUGH TO
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ASSIST IN BRINGING LABOR BACK TO POWER. WHEN THE VOTES WERE COUNTED JUST BEFORE THE STORTING RECESSED FOR THE SUMMER, THE 73 LABOR PARTY REPRESENTATIVES STOOD ALONE; THE 76 NON- SOCIALIST MEMBERS, PLUS MAVERICK ARNE KIELLAND OF THE SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S PARTY, SUPPORTED THE GOVERNMENT.

3. NEW PEOPLE'S PARTY CHAIRMAN HELGE SEIP, WHO POSED THE CROTALE AFFAIR AS A POTENTIAL CONFIDENCE ISSUE WHEN HE SHARPLY ATTACKED THE GOVERNMENT ON MAY 24, EXPLAINED LAST NIGHT THAT HIS VOTE SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS A DECLARATION OF CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT. YET HIS COMPLETE ABOUT- FACE OVER THE PAST TWO WEEKS LEAVES MANY OBSERVERS PUZZLED AND SOME OF HIS SUPPORTERS MIFFED. SEIP DID MANAGE TO BRING DISCREDIT ON COMMERCE MINISTER HALVARD EIKA AND DEFENSE MINISTER JOHANN KLEPPE-- BOTH ERSTWHILE COLLEAGUES FROM THE LIBERAL PARTY WHICH SEIP BOLTED LAST DECEMBER. BUT IT IS AN OPEN QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE LIBERALS OR SEIP'S OFFSHOOT PARTY HAVE BEEN DAMAGED MOST. DECON 12/31 /73. CROWE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TAGS: PGOV, PINT, NO
To: COPENHAGEN
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